

One specimen at least of each of the bones now first described has been kindly presented by Mr. Sauzier, on behalf of the Commission of which he is President, to the Museum of the University of Cambridge, as well as a series of other bones in proportion to the extent of the collection. The remainder, including a magnificent skeleton, which has been mounted in that Museum and is doubtless the most complete in the world, of *Didus ineptus*, will be ultimately deposited in the Museum of Mauritius at Port Louis.

This memoir will be published entire in the 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

1. Descriptions of two new Mammals from New Guinea.

By the HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, F.Z.S.

[Received November 1, 1892.]

In the face of the very exhaustive and explicit paper by Mr. Oldfield Thomas in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1885, I should not venture to lay before the Society a description of a new Monotreme of the subfamily Echidnidæ, if I were not backed up by such an eminent zoologist as Dr. Günther. The latter agrees with me that, as we have so little real knowledge of the habits and distribution of the Monotremata, it is advisable to treat each form as a distinct geographical race until such time as we have a complete knowledge of all the forms and their exact geographical distribution.

1. PROECHIDNA NIGRO-ACULEATA, sp. nov.

From having had the specimen here described alive I was able to make a much more careful examination of it than if it had been a dried skin.

It differs from *Pr. bruijni* in its much larger size, extremely robust limbs, and much shorter claws. Another great point of difference lies in the hair, for while *Pr. bruijni* is covered with dense woolly brown hair, in which are imbedded the few and scattered spines, in the form before us the hair is long, bristly, and very sparingly sprinkled over the body, the legs being almost bare. In the new form the spines are almost as numerous as in *Echidna aculeata*, but are of great length and thickness and of a horny black colour; while in *Pr. bruijni* they are very few in number, short, thin, and of a pure white colour.

In *Pr. bruijni* the claws are solid and much longer than in *Pr. nigro-aculeata*, the middle claw of the fore foot being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, while that of *Pr. nigro-aculeata* measures only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

In addition to this, all the claws of *Pr. nigro-aculeata* are much broader and considerably hollowed out on the under surface. Lastly, *Pr. nigro-aculeata* has a much longer and stouter tail than *Pr. bruijni*.

Total length of *Pr. nigro-aculeata*, measured in the flesh, 31 inches, while Gervais gives as the greatest length of *Pr. bruijni* 24 inches.

Hab. Charles Louis Mountains, Dutch New Guinea.

I append here for reference the habitats of the other two described forms of *Proechidna* :—

Pr. bruijni and its varieties *P. villosissima* and *P. leucocephala* : Arfak Mountains, Dutch New Guinea.

Pr. novæ-gineæ : Finisterre Mountains, German New Guinea.

2. ACROBATES PULCHELLUS, sp. nov.

I venture to think that this discovery of the late A. Bruijn's will prove of extreme interest to zoologists as adding a second species to a genus hitherto represented by a single form, and also as proving the much wider geographical distribution of a highly specialized genus.

This species differs from *Acrobates pygmæus* of New South Wales in its more purplish-brown colour, its broader and more robust head, much shorter tail, and comparatively smaller body. On the ventral surface it is much whiter than *A. pygmæus*, and the whole of the throat and sides of the lower jaw are pure white, while in *A. pygmæus* they are yellowish grey. Round the eyes and reaching almost to the nostrils is a blackish-brown patch. Ears rather smaller than in *A. pygmæus*. Tail in *A. pulchellus* $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, while in *A. pygmæus* it is $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Hab. One of the small islands in Northern Dutch New Guinea.

2. On Mammals from Nyassaland.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S.

[Received August 20, 1892.]

By the kindness of Mr. Sclater I have been entrusted with the examination of the fine series of Mammalia sent home to him by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., F.Z.S., Consul-General of Mozambique and H.M. Commissioner for Nyassaland, under whose auspices they were collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., a trained naturalist and collector on Mr. Johnston's staff, who is engaged in investigating the fauna and flora of Nyassaland. It is impossible to speak too highly of the scientific energy and public spirit of Mr. Johnston in thus furthering our knowledge of the natural productions of the region which he is called upon to govern—conduct very greatly in contrast to that of many Englishmen in official positions, who, under the name of sport, exterminate the native fauna of many most interesting localities, without a thought either for the needs of science at large or for those of their own National Museum in particular. Of the specimens now sent home a full set is presented by Mr. Johnston to the Museum, as is also the case with the birds, reptiles, and animals of all classes, as well as with the plants which he has been instrumental in getting collected for the benefit of science.